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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/653,248	09/03/2003	Yuichi Hosoi	Q77278	2777

23373 7590 08/24/2005

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

MALEVIC, DJURA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2878

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/653,248	Applicant(s) HOSOI ET AL.	
	Examiner Djura Malevic	Art Unit 2878	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/3/2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/3/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification has a couple inadvertent grammatical mistakes.

Paragraph 11, line 5, "th" must be replaced with "the";

Paragraph 50, line 13, "101E" must be replaced with "100E";

Paragraph 50, line 15, "5B" must be replaced with "5E".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, the phrase "adapted for" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 - 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leblans et al. (US Pub 2004/0051438).

Regarding claims 1 and 2, Leblans discloses a radiation image storage panel (Fig. 3), comprising a stimuable phosphor layer 1 capable of emitting light when being exposed to stimulating rays, which cause the stimuable phosphor layer to emit light in proportion to an amount of energy stored on the stimuable phosphor layer during radiation [0025]. Furthermore, Leblans also discloses a flattening process in which Lablans flattens the surface of the light radiating side of the phosphor to a predetermined even layer [0074].

Leblans does not expressly disclose that the stimuable phosphor is modified for radiating out the emitted light with an intensity distribution that is compressed in the direction, normal to the surface of the stimuable phosphor layer. However, it is appreciated and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art that to flatten the stimuable phosphor by means of polishing, would in fact, compress the radiated intensity distribution in the direction, normal to the phosphor layer and into an oblate distribution, which is flatter than the $\text{COS } \theta$ distribution.

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Regarding claim 3, Lablans discloses the flattening process is polishing the surface of the stimuable phosphor layer on the light radiation side thereby flattening the stimuable phosphor [0074,0103].

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4 - 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 4, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a radiation image storage panel wherein the flattening process for the surface of the stimuable phosphor layer is filled with a material exhibiting a refractive index larger than 1, into depressed regions of the surface thereby flattening the stimuable phosphor layer. Although, references like Joly et al. (US Pub. 2003/0168611 A1) teaches a binderless stimuable phosphor screen comprising a phosphor layer, wherein the vapor deposited phosphor is needle-shaped with voids between the needles, in which the voids are partially filled with a polymeric compound. However, Joly only suggest partially filling the voids not completely filling the voids thereby not flattening the stimuable phosphor layer.

Claims 5 and 6 are allowed based on there dependencies.

Conclusion

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Djura Malevic whose telephone number is (571) 272-5975. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday between 8:30am – 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Djura Malevic
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2878
571.272.5975



DAVID PORTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800